

Claims:

1. A method of administration which comprises administering orally to a human host prior to the consumption of food a pharmaceutical composition comprising calcitonin in combination with one or more oral delivery agents.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein oral administration is in the range of about 5 to 30 minutes prior to a meal.
3. A method according to claims 1 or 2, wherein said pharmaceutical composition comprises:
 - a) an oral delivery agent being the disodium salt of N-(5-chlorosalicyloyl)-8-aminocaprylic acid, N-(10-[2-hydroxybenzoyl]aminodecanoic acid or N-(8-[2-hydroxybenzoyl]amino)caprylic acid, or a hydrate or solvate of a said disodium salt; and
 - b) about 0.1-2.5 mg of calcitonin; in which the ratio of the amount of the oral delivery agent, expressed as the corresponding amount of free acid, to the amount of calcitonin is in the range of about 10 to about 250:1 by weight.
4. The use of a pharmaceutical composition for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a disorder responsive to the action of calcitonin, said composition comprising calcitonin in combination with one or more oral delivery agents and whereas said composition is administered orally to a human host prior to the consumption of food.
5. The use of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 4, wherein oral administration is in the range of about 5 to 30 minutes prior to a meal.

The use of a pharmaceutical composition according to claims 4 or 5, wherein said pharmaceutical composition comprises:

- a) an oral delivery agent being the disodium salt of N-(5-chlorosalicyloyl)-8-aminocaprylic acid, N-(10-[2-hydroxybenzoyl]aminodecanoic acid or N-(8-[2-hydroxybenzoyl]amino)caprylic acid, or a hydrate or solvate of a said disodium salt; and

- b) about 0.1-2.5 mg of calcitonin; in which the ratio of the amount of the oral delivery agent, expressed as the corresponding amount of free acid, to the amount of calcitonin is in the range of about 10 to about 250:1 by weight.
6. An oral pharmaceutical composition comprising:
- a) an oral delivery agent being the disodium salt of N-(5-chlorosalicyloyl)-8-aminocaprylic acid, N-(10-[2-hydroxybenzoyl]aminodecanoic acid or N-(8-[2-hydroxybenzoyl]amino)caprylic acid, or a hydrate or solvate of a said disodium salt; and
- b) about 0.1-2.5 mg of calcitonin; in which the ratio of the amount of the oral delivery agent, expressed as the corresponding amount of free acid, to the amount of calcitonin is in the range of about 10 to about 250:1 by weight.
7. An oral solid pharmaceutical composition according to claim 6, comprising N-(5-chlorosalicyloyl)-8-aminocaprylic acid disodium salt or a hydrate thereof and about 0.1-2.5 mg of salmon calcitonin, in which the ratio, as defined in said claim, of the amount of the oral delivery agent to the amount of calcitonin is in the range of about 10 to about 200:1 by weight.
8. An oral solid pharmaceutical composition according to claim 6, in which the ratio is about 25 to about 100:1 by weight.
9. An oral solid pharmaceutical composition according to claims 6, 7 or 8, which also comprises either or both of crospovidone and povidone.
10. A kit comprising:
- a) an oral pharmaceutical composition comprising calcitonin and an oral delivery agent being the disodium salt of N-(5-chlorosalicyloyl)-8-aminocaprylic acid, N-(10-[2-hydroxybenzoyl]aminodecanoic acid or N-(8-[2-hydroxybenzoyl]amino)caprylic acid, or a hydrate or solvate of a said disodium salt; and
- b) written instructions which instructions provide that said oral pharmaceutical composition may be taken prior to the consumption of food.
11. The kit according to claim 10, whereas the calcitonin is salmon calcitonin and about 0.1-2.5 mg of salmon calcitonin; in which the ratio of the amount of the oral

delivery agent, expressed as the corresponding amount of free acid, to the amount of salmon calcitonin is in the range of about 10 to about 250:1 by weight.